

Thanks to countless public servants and everyday Americans throughout all levels of government and first responders across our country, our Nation stands more resilient than ever. House Resolution 1618 praises the selfless dedication of those courageous individuals and calls on the American public to equally make efforts at home, at work and school, because it's really all of our responsibility to increase their ability to assist in preventing, protecting against, and preparing to respond to all disasters and, above all, to minimize the loss of life and destruction of property.

Madam Speaker, change is evident in regard to how Americans prepare for disasters, but one thing is completely true—we have not completely hit the road that we need to be on to be prepared in every aspect to avoid some of these disasters and incidents that might occur.

Let me go over a few simple tips, and I would like to build upon some of the ones that Chairman THOMPSON already mentioned for the RECORD.

Number one, it's important to practice your disaster plan. Number two, prepare our children so that they know what to do. Number three, something that we fell short on with Hurricane Katrina, and that is not to forget to make assistance for those who are vulnerable, whether they be those who are aged, infants, or those with special needs. We should all learn CPR and first aid. We need to understand the post-9/11 risks. And finally, we all have got to be involved and volunteer.

House Resolution 1618 encourages all Americans to be prepared when—not if—the next emergency occurs and to get involved in the National Preparedness Month activity happening in your area. Right here today in the Capitol, Chairman THOMPSON authorized, with FEMA, to be able to launch the iPod system, which will enable State and local governments, tribal and territories to be able to be better alerted in the case of an emergency.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1618.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1618 supports the important goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month. I thank the ranking member and all my colleagues on the Committee on Homeland Security for coming together in a bipartisan manner to show support for this important resolution.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1618.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and recognize National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

Madam Speaker, the use and abuse of illegal, illicit, and contraband drugs is one of the most challenging and difficult problems facing America. Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month brings attention to the broad group of people affected by alcohol and drug abuse and how recovery truly helps people who struggle with substance abuse problems.

The 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that just over 22 million Americans, or 9 percent of the population aged 12 or older, were classified with substance dependence or abuse in the past year. This rate has remained fairly stable since 2002. Approximately 57 percent of persons who are dependent on drugs were dependent on marijuana, with about 25 percent dependent on pain relievers and 23 percent dependent on cocaine.

Although men and women aged 12 to 17 have similar rates of drug dependence, for individuals older than 18, the rate of substance dependence or abuse was about twice as high for men compared to women. Racial/ethnic groups reported similar rates of dependence or abuse, except Asian Americans reported lower rates of dependence and abuse.

Substance dependence or abuse varies by region of the country, with the Midwest, 10 percent, having a higher rate than the South, 8.7 percent, and the Northeast, 8.1 percent, but a similar rate to the West, 9.2 percent.

Rates for substance dependence or abuse among persons aged 12 or older in 2007 also varied by county type, with small metropolitan counties, 9.4 percent, having a significantly higher rate than nonmetropolitan counties, 8.3 percent, but a similar rate when compared with large metropolitan counties, 9.0 percent.

In Illinois, according to the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 780,000 Illinois citizens aged 12 or older reported illicit drug use, with 294,000 Il-

linoisans reporting drug dependence or abuse in the past year.

□ 1900

These data found that, for youth aged 12–17, approximately 104,000 Illinoisans reported past month use of an illicit drug.

Earlier in this decade, a survey in Chicago found that 800,000 individuals indicated that they used drugs, with 300,000 reporting themselves as hardcore drug users.

A 2010 study by the Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy found that the Chicago metropolitan region ranks among the worst in the nation for heroin use and problems associated with heroin use. Chicago had the most cases of people with heroin problems using emergency rooms in the Nation from 2004 to 2008, 50 percent more than were handled in New York City during the same period.

So I rise in essence to also commend those institutions and those individuals who are engaged in the treatment of substance abuse users, and I point out the Loretta Hospital, which is located in the congressional district where I live and work, I had the opportunity to attend on Monday of this week a great program composed of individuals who were substance abuse users, providers of care, the members of the police department, and I pointed out that the Chicago Police Department in that particular district has a commendable record of how they handle individuals that they come into contact with when they are inebriated, when they are suffering from alcoholism, when they might be found wandering on the street in states that require some intervention.

I also note that on Saturday, there will be at least 500 to 800 individuals involved in what we call Recovery Walk. That is individuals who are all addicted who will gather in a park for a rally and then walk to another park, pointing out the tremendous need for additional resources but also pointing out that treatment and recovery does in fact work.

So I want to commend all of the individuals who have suffered from substance abuse, alcohol and drug use, and have overcome their difficulties and are now leading meaningful and productive lives.

I also commend all of those who are involved in treatment who know that if they continue to believe, if they continue to hope, that they can overcome this difficulty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.